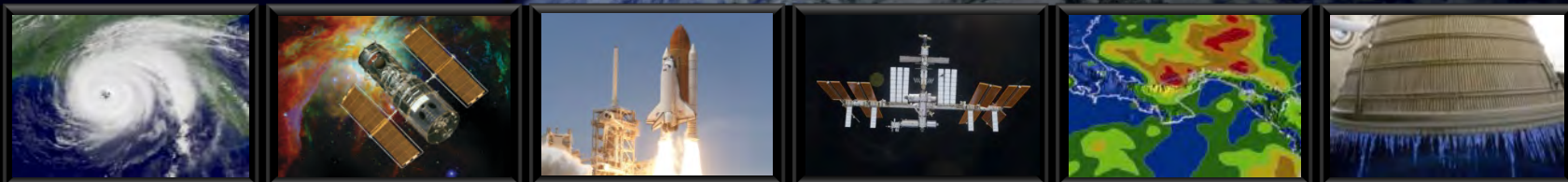




# Space Launch System (SLS) *Status*

marshall



Todd A. May  
SLS Program Manager  
August 5, 2011

# Exploring Earth Orbit...and Beyond



*To reach for new heights and reveal the unknown  
so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind.*

— NASA's Vision  
2011 Strategic Plan

Safely fly and retire the Space Shuttle  
and maintain safe access for humans to  
low-Earth orbit (LEO) as we fully utilize  
the International Space Station.

— NASA's FY12 Budget

Lay the foundation for humans in deep space  
— the Moon, asteroids, eventually Mars —  
through development of a powerful, evolvable  
Space Launch System (SLS) and Multi-  
Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV).

— NASA's FY12 Budget



# Expanding Humanity's Frontiers of Discovery



# Marshall's Core Areas



## Space Transportation/Launch Vehicle Technology and Development



## Propulsion Systems Technology and Development



## Space Systems Technology, Development, and Integration



## Scientific Research



# Determining the Best Launch Vehicle

## Solution: Safe, Affordable, Timely, and Capable



### ◆ Cost

- Must Be Affordable
- Fixed, Nonrecurring, and Recurring Costs

### ◆ Schedule

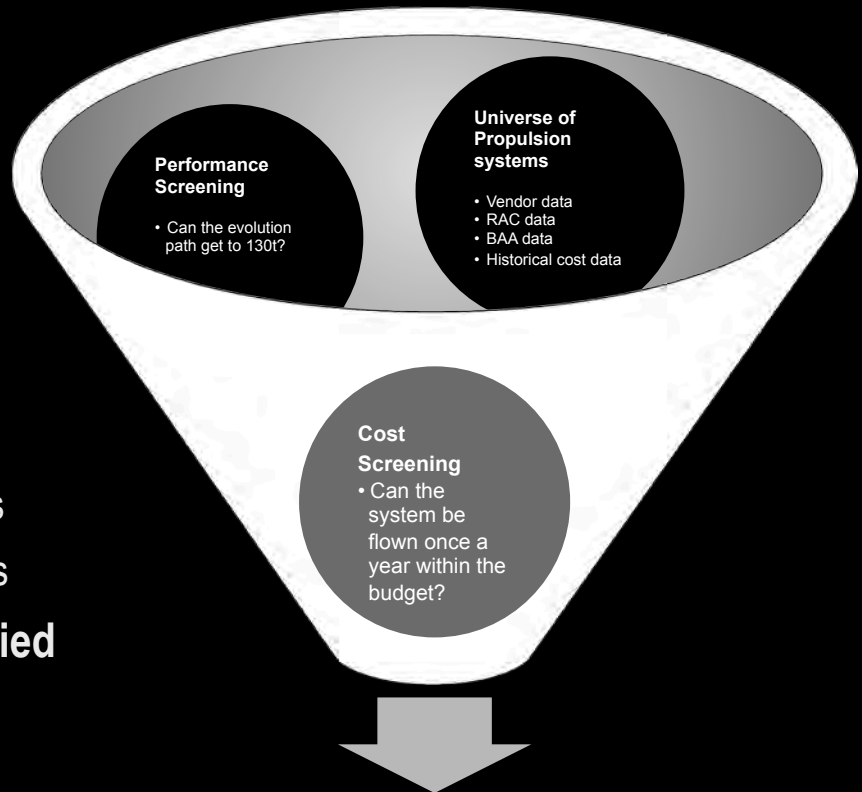
- Target Date is 2016

### ◆ Performance

- Lifts the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, Cargo, and Scientific Payloads
- Initial Capability for Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) Missions
- Evolves to 130 Tonnes (t) for Beyond LEO Missions

### ◆ Candidate Launch Vehicle Architectures Studied

- Liquid Oxygen/Hydrogen
- Liquid Oxygen/Kerosene Rocket Propellant
- Solid and Liquid Boosters

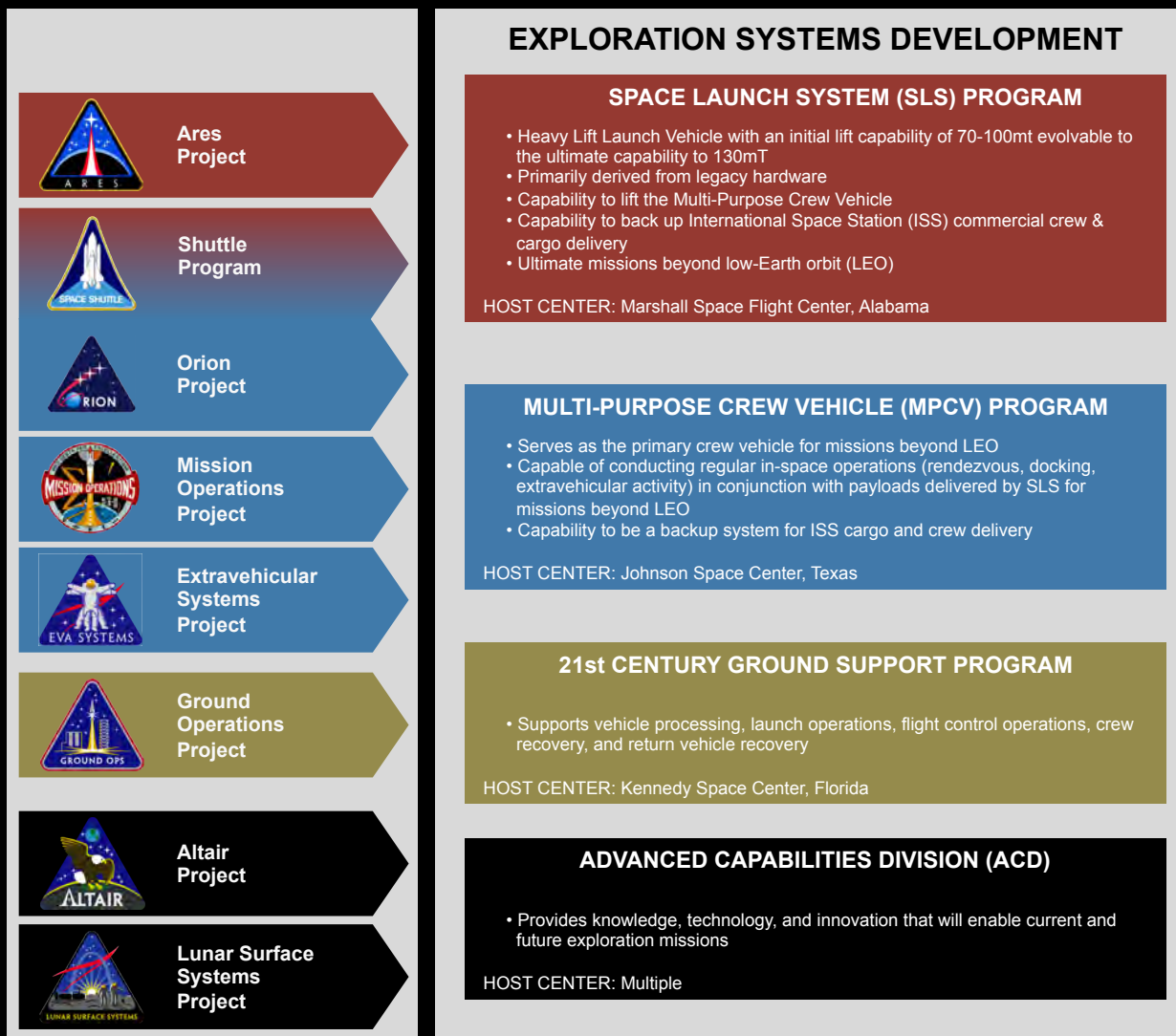
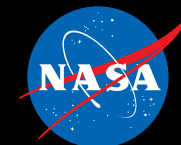


### Candidate Systems

- Detailed engineering assessments
- Detailed cost estimates and development schedules



# Transitioning to Space Launch System



**Beginning With Available Resources and Technologies**

# Building on Heritage Hardware and Facilities



**Manufacturing and  
Transportation**  
*Michoud Assembly Facility*

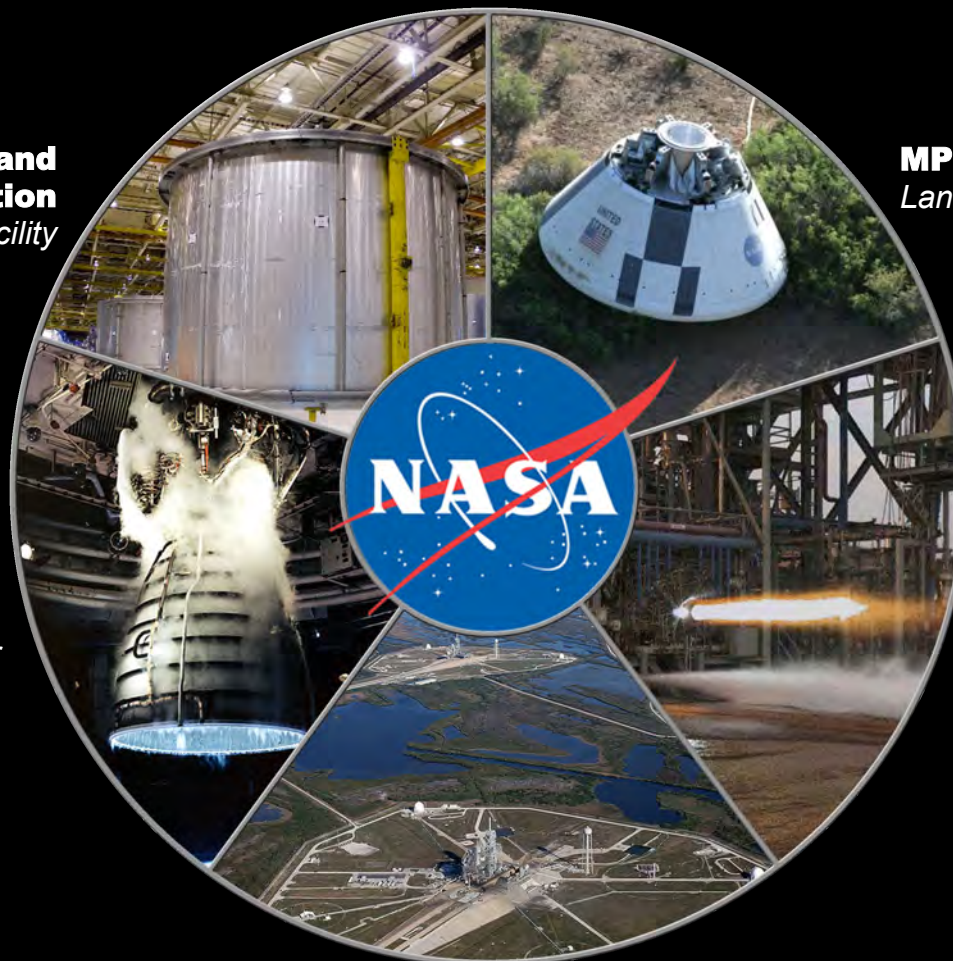
**MPCV Testing**  
*Langley Research Center*

**Space Shuttle Main  
Engine Testing**  
*Stennis Space Center*

**J-2X  
Upper Stage Engine  
Injector Firing**  
*Marshall Space  
Flight Center*

**Ground and Launch Operations**  
*Kennedy Space Center*

***Smartly Selecting the Most Efficient Infrastructure***



# Delivering Incremental Capability



*International Cooperation for Future Exploration Missions*



For More Information  
[www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems](http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems)



***Space Launch System — Safe, Reliable, Capable, Sustainable***